

JANNIS SPYROPOULOS



DAVID JONES' ART GALLERY
ELIZABETH STREET, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA • AUGUST 15 – 31, 1974

DAVID JONES' ART GALLERY
Director: Robert Haines



It is with pleasure that we present this, our fourth, exhibition of paintings by Jannis Spyropoulos. He is undoubtedly the greatest living Greek painter, and in my opinion one of the great painters living to-day. Although he has been called an abstract painter, I think this label could be misleading as it seems to me that the paintings of Spyropoulos have qualities that make them essentially Greek and that they speak of Greek landscape and culture.

Jannis Spyropoulos was born in the Peloponese in 1912. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens until 1938 when he was awarded a scholarship to study in Paris for two years. He returned to Athens where he has continued to work while exhibiting widely abroad. Although somewhat isolated in Athens he has established a greater reputation internationally than in his own country where he has been honoured but not always understood.

Looking at his earliest paintings and observing the development, one is conscious that Spyropoulos has always been very aware of, and sensitive to, appearances. The shapes, the colours, the textures, the qualities and relation of the world around him have always concerned this painter. For the greater part of his life the world around him has been Greece, and this Greece has not been the popular tourist conception of sunshine with everything blue and white. If one really spends time in Greece one becomes aware of the dramatic character of the country: the dried earth colours, the sharpness of light, the darkness of shade, the form and textures of the worn marble of ancient ruins – it becomes mysterious, dramatic, ominous and unexpected. Also one is constantly reminded of the Byzantine and again these shapes and symbols seem to emerge from the paintings, whether consciously or not I am not sure.

I cannot imagine that these paintings could have been painted by anyone but a Greek in Greece. They are, however, very individual and could only have been painted by Spyropoulos. The longer one looks at these paintings the more one is aware that one is in the presence of that really rare thing, *a work of art*.

R.H.

1 THE IMAGE B – 1972
22 x 40.5 cm

2 THE IMAGE D – 1972
20 x 40.5 cm

3 IKONA S – 1972
20 x 40.5 cm

4 IKONA D – 1972
20 x 39 cm

5 IKONA No. 3 – 1973
43 x 28 cm

6 IKONA No. 7 – 1973
43 x 25.5 cm

7 IKONA No. 17 – 1973
39 x 25.5 cm

8 IKONA L – 1973
44.5 x 25 cm

9 IKONA No. 11 – 1973
42.5 x 26 cm

10 IKONA No. 9 – 1973
43 x 25.5 cm

11 IKONA No. 23 – 1973
42 x 26.5 cm

12 IKONA No. 5 – 1973
44 x 26.5 cm

13 IKONA No. 19 – 1973
23 x 40.5 cm

14 IKONA F – 1973
24 x 44.5 cm

15 IKONA No. 14 – 1973
45 x 25.5 cm

16 IKONA R – 1973
41.5 x 20 cm

17 IKONA B – 1973
40.5 x 20 cm

The price of each painting is \$2,000

COLLECTIONS

Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris – France.
S. R. Guggenheim Museum, New York – U.S.A.
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem – Israel.
Musee d'Art Moderne, Brussels – Belgium.
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts – U.S.A.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Dallas, Texas – U.S.A.
Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell, New Mexico – U.S.A.
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio – U.S.A.
Bezalel National Museum, Jerusalem – Israel.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade – Yugoslavia.
Museum of Fine Arts, Ostend – Belgium.
Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois – U.S.A.
The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Nebraska University, Lincoln, Nebraska – U.S.A.
Toronto National Art Gallery, Toronto – Canada.
City of Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland – New Zealand.
Famagusta Art Gallery – Cyprus.
Frankische Galerie der Stadt, Nurnberg – West Germany.
Athens National Art Gallery, Athens – Greece.
Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, New York – U.S.A.
Atlantic Richfield Company, New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles – U.S.A.
Bundy Art Gallery, Waitsfield, Vermont – U.S.A.
Institute of Art History, Mainz – West Germany.
Grinnell Art College, Grinnell, Iowa – U.S.A.
Fairleigh Dickinson University Art Gallery, Madison, New Jersey – U.S.A.
The Ben and Abbey Grey Foundation, St. Paul, Minnesota – U.S.A.
Collection of American Republic Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa – U.S.A.
Town Halls Athens – Greece.
Hamilton – Canada.
Rathaus, Lunen, Westfalen – West Germany.
Royal Palace of Greece.
Ministries of Presidency, Labour, Education, Foreign Affairs – Greece.
Presidential Palace of Cyprus – Nicosia.
Many private collections in Greece and abroad.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

UNESCO PRIZE at the 30th Venice Biennale, June 1960.
Golden Medal of the City of Ostend, Belgium, June, 1961.
Commander of the Royal Order of the Phoenix, Athens, 1966.

NEXT EXHIBITION

ENZO PLAZZOTTA — Bronzes

including a number of studies
of the dancers ANTOINETTE SIBLEY
and ANTHONY DOWELL

September 4 - 21

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